

## Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

Philadelphia, 26. May, 1880.

Sir,

One of the firm of Patrick and Lipsett, now supplying the melting department with anthracite, called in my office yesterday morning, and said that to his regret one of his men the other day, by mistake, put on the top of his load some soft coal, but that the mistake should not occur again. I replied that the same accident must have happened to every load he supplied to our department for the last three weeks, because the bad quality of coal induced us to watch it for that time daily. We hoped it might be an accident, but when we saw it becoming worse, we could no longer endure witnessing such injustice to the Government, in supplying uniformly an inferior fuel for our purpose, and injustice to our men in making them toil an hour or more a day (more



or less) longer than with good coal, and then without the power to secure thorough blending of the alloys, and to regulate the proper temperature of casting.

Yesterday the Weigher, Mr. Gibson, called on my foreman Mr. Garrigues, and asked him if he wanted more coal, to which the latter replied, "No, for we had enough in the cellar." This morning a load was brought unordered and dumped into the cellar. Mr. Garrigues signed the "ticket" as received, but erased the words "Ordered by" very properly.

When I learned these facts, I examined the coal in the cellar, taking only the top layer, that had just been dumped in. Of the first 56 pieces, adjacent to each other, without preference, I found 9 pieces of good Council Ridge, 17 of medium, and 30 of coal quite inferior for our purpose. The first melts of gold are coming out of the furnace at 10½ o'clock this day.

I must respectfully enter my protest against ~~any~~<sup>one</sup> supplying the materials for my department,



494 1/2

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia,

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT,

May 26, 1880.

J. C. Booth

Melter and Refiner.

Repts inferior  
melting coal from  
Patrick & Lipscomb;  
Complain of  
order for surplus  
being <sup>issued</sup> ~~advised~~ without  
authority.

No. of Enclosures, \_\_\_\_\_

Rec May 26<sup>th</sup> 1880.

[Abstract:] Reports inferior melting coal from Patrick & Lipsett; complains of order for supplies being issued without authority. 494 ½

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Melting and Refining Department,  
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